

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 3681

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T USNATO 1051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS BY US MISSIONS OVERSEAS WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF ALLIANCE NATIONS

REF: A) SATE 28873; B) SOFIA 0210; E) WARSAW 1012

C) PRAGUE 0311 D) BUCHAREST 0588; F) BELGRADE 0732

1. MISSION IS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALLIANCE

EMBASSIES IN WARSAW, SOFIA, PRAGUE AND BUCHAREST ARE EVIDENTLY PRODUCING USEFUL RESULTS. MISSION REMAINS OF VIEW THAT SUBJECT MERITS RECONSIDERATION AND THAT THIS PRACTICE HAS SIMILARLY BENEFICIAL RESULTS IN CAPITALS CITED IN USNATO 0282 AND POSSIBLY IN OTHER CAPITALS AS WELL.

2. DEPT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS "WESTERN CLUB" ASPECTS OF THIS IDEA IN THE ASIAN AND MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT STRIKES US AS
SECRET

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SOMEWHAT INCONGRUENT WITH THE SECRETARY'S PILGRIM'S SPEECH. THAT SPEECH URGED THAT WE TAKE CARE NOT TO LOSE WHAT HAS MADE OUR ALLIANCE UNIQUE: "THAT IN THE DEEPEST SENSE EUROPE AND AMERICA DO NOT THINK OF EACH OTHER AS FOREIGN ENTITIES CON-

DUCTING TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY, BUT AS MEMBERS OF A LARGER COMMUNITY ENGAGED ... IN A COMMON ENTERPRISE." IT SEEMS TO THIS MISSION THAT THE NOTION THAT THERE IS AN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND THAT A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" OUGHT TO EXIST AS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE REQUIRES THE ALLIES TO ACCEPT WITHOUT TOO MUCH EMBARRASSMENT THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS WHICH OTHERS MAY WISH TO PLACE ON THIS "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP." WE WOULD NOT ARGUE THAT HIGHER VISIBILITY FOR THE ALLIANCE CONNECTION IS A SOUND IDEA EVERYWHERE OR AT ALL TIMES, BUT WE DO WONDER IF THE DEPT IS NOT BEING UNDULY RESTRICTIVE IN SUGGESTING THAT MEETINGS OF NATO AMBASSADORS ARE NEVER TO BE CONTEMPLATED IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. MOREOVER, DEPT'S COMMENT ON COORDINATING ALLIED POSITION ON ASIAN AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS (PARA 3 REF A), SEEMS TO US SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH THE IDEA THAT DETENTE IS INDIVISIBLE, AND THAT SOVIET ACTIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE THEREFORE OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. IN THIS INSTANCE, THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE DEPT'S COMMENT APPEARS TO US TO BE VERY CLOSE TO THAT RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY FRENCH AMB DE ROSE WHO SAID AT THE FEB 13 COUNCIL MEETING: "AT THE TIME OF THE CRISIS IN THE NEAR EAST, CONSULTATION PLAYED NO PART AND WE DO NOT HOLD IT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOR IT WAS A PROBLEM OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA." QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, AT THE TIME OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, DEPT TOOK THE POSITION THAT SOVIET ACTIONS REPRESENTED A THREAT TO EUROPEAN INTERESTS EVEN THOUGH THESE ACTIONS TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA OUTSIDE THE NATO TREATY AREA. INDEED, AS THE DEPT WILL RECALL, THE MISSION WAS INSTRUCTED TO ASK THE ALLIES TO CONSIDER A SERIES OF COORDINATED ACTIONS TO IMPRESS UPON THE USSR THE DANGERS OF ITS POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS HISTORY AND THE PROBLEM THAT WE FACE GENERALLY WHEN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE ALLIES TO STAND WITH US ON MATTERS INVOLVING A US/SOVIET CONFRONTATION OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA, WE HOPE THAT DEPT WILL REVIEW ITS VIEWS ON UTILITY OF CONSULTATIONS ON AN ALLIANCE BASIS IN CAPITALS
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OUTSIDE OF EASTERNEUROPE. RUMSFELD

SECRET

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WARSAW

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